pipes, asbestos cement sheets, brake-linings etc. The asbestos fibre levels are below the prescribed National and International norms and the health hazards of use of chrysotile asbestos are yet to be proved.

The Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals have sponsored a study to the National Institute Occupational Health, Ahmedabad to study the impact of Health and Environmental Hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile asbestos by the Indian Industry.

Ban on GM Crops

†4033. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many genetically modified crops have been banned in many countries of the world as they are unsuitable for human consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether it is also fact that the genetically modified seeds which are being distributed by foreign companies have also been banned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No Sir; No GM crop expressing approved events have been banned in any country because they are unsuitable for human comsumption.

(c) and (d) BT cotton seeds expressing four events is the only GM crop approved for commercial release in the country. Distribution of these seeds is not banned in the country.

Scheme for forest development in Goa

4034. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes for forest development are in force in the State of Goa;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.